

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 SS-15 AID-05 HEW-02 /078 W

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R 250925Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4774

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DEA HQ WASHDC

AMCONSUL CURACAO

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 965

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5704

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, NL, OVIP (VAN AGT, ANDREAS A.M.)

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL: JUSTICE MINISTER IS
MOVING INTO HIGHER GEAR

REF: STATE 244393

FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE

SUMMARY: DURING CALL BY AMBASSADOR ON NOV 19
JUSTICE MINISTER VAN AGT (WHO IS ALSO DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER), (A) ADVISED AMBASSADOR THAT HE, VAN AGTN,
WOULD LIKE TO VISIT US DURING EARLY JANUARY,
1975 IN ORDER TO BECOME ACQUAINTED FIRST-HAND WITH
US THINKING AND EXPERIENCE ON NARCOTICS ABUSE AND
CONTROL PROBLEMS, (B) APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE THE HOLDING
OF A DEA IN-COUNTRY COURSE IN THE NETHS IN/ABOUT
FEBRUARY 1975, AND (C) EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT
FOR AMBASSADOR'S PROPOSAL FOR HOLDING OF CONFERENCE
OR SYMPOSIUM IN THE NETHERLANDS ON HARD DRUG ABUSE AND
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RELATED PROBLEMS, AIMED AT ACQUAINTING VARIOUS SECTORS

OF DUTCH PUBLIC AND OFFICIALDOM WITH EXPERIENCES OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE NETHERLANDS AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN GON NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY ARE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. THIS MESSAGE DEALS WITH VAN AGT'S PROPOSED TRIP. SEPARATE MESSAGES COVERING DEA IN-COUNTRY COURSE AND SYMPOSIUM FOLLOW IN ADDITION TO MESSAGE BEARING ON LOCAL DEA ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MY SEVERAL CONTACTS OVER RECENT WEEKS WITH JUSTICE MINISTER VAN AGT HE HAS BEEN EXHIBITING GROWING APPRECIATION FOR POTENTIAL MAGNITUDE OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS THAT MAY CONFRONT NETHERLANDS AS A RESULT OF DUTCH POLICY (OR LACK THEREOF). FOR EXAMPLE, MINISTER HAS VOICED HIS MISGIVINGS REGARDING VIEW HELD BY SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND THEIR SUBORDINATES THAT CANNABIS IS AN INNOCUOUS SUBSTANCE AND OUGHT TO BE TREATED AS ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, ALCOHOLIC SUBSTANCES. VAN AGT HAS ALSO BECOME CONVINCED THAT DRUG PROBLEM IN GENERAL, AND PARTICULARLY HARD DRUG TRAFFICKING, HAS BEEN ASSUMING EVER MORE SERIOUS DIMENSIONS IN HOLLAND OVER PAST TWO YEARS.

2. DURING MY CALL ON VAN AGT NOV 19, HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BECOMING BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH THIS SUBJECT AND SPECIFICALLY WITH US EXPERIENCE AND PROGLRAMS IN NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL FIELD. RESPONDING TO MY EARLIER SUGGESTION AND TO INFORMAL INVITATION FROM DEA ADMINISTRATOR BARTELS DURING HIS SEPT 13 VISIT TO THE HAGUE, VAN AGT SAID HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO VISIT US AND DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. SUCH A TRIP SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM DURING FIRST HALF OF JANUARY, 1975, HE SAID.

3. EMBASSY IS GRATIFIED WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT, WHICH REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH IN OUR EFFORTS TO GET DUTCH OFFICIALS OFF THE DIME. VAN AGT STRIKES US AS CANDIDATE PAR EXCELLENCE FOR HIGH LEVEL
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VISITORS PROGRAM DESCRIBED STATE 244393.

4. OUR EXPECTATION IS THAT VAN AGT WILL BE ABLE TO SPEND 6 OR 7 DAYS IN US. I SUGGESTED THAT HE TAKE AN ADVISER WITH HIM, POSSIBLY FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. WE WOULD HOPE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE, SEC OF HEW, ADMINISTRATOR BARTELS,

AMBASSADOR VANCE AND DR. DUPONT OF SAODAP, AMONG OTHERS,

COULD BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH VAN AGT DURING VISIT.
ALTHOUGH VAN AGT IS RESPONSIBLE PRIMARILY FOR ENFORCEMENT
ASPECTS OF NARCOTICS CONTROL, IT WOULD ALSO BE BENEFICIAL
TO EXPOSE HIM TO THE SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECTS
OF DRUG ABUSE.

5. ANOTHER ELEMENT THAT IS NOT FULLY APPRECIATED BY DUTCH
ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND WHICH OUGHT TO BE IMPRESSED
ON VAN AGT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DRUG ABUSE
AND THE INCIDENCE OF CRIME IN GENERAL. A
COGENT PRESENTATION ON THIS THEME WOULD UNDERLINE THE
FUTURE SAVINGS IN MANPOWER AND RESOURCES THAT WOULD ACCRUE
TO THE DUTCH FROM A RELATIVELY MODEST INVESTMENT NOW
AGAINST WHOLESALE TRAFFICKERS; IT WOULD ALSO BUTTRESS
VAN AGT'S DISPOSITION TO STRENGTHEN DUTCH
ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY TO THAT END AND SIMULATE HIS SUPPORT FOR
A DRUG SYMPOSIUM.

6. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER ON PROPOSED PROGRAM
AFTER MORE IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION WITH VAN AGT AND HIS
STAFF. MEANWHILE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ASAP
DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL FOR FUNDING OF PROPOSED ONE-WEEK
VISIT BY VAN AGT UNDER HIGH LEVEL VISITORS PROGRAM.
IF APPROVED, PLEASE ADVISE WHAT TRAVEL AND PROGRAM COSTS
CAN BE FUNDED BY S/NM AND WHETHER TRAVEL AND/OR
INCIDENTAL EXPENSES OF ADVISER ACCOMPANYING VAN AGT
CAN ALSO BE COVERED.
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